

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

INFO AMCONSUL AUCKLAND

UNCLAS STATE 118373

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA, TPHY

SUBJECT: PROPOSED SCIENTIFIC TESTS SATELLITE RECEPTION SYSTEM

1. THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITE SERVICE (NESS), OF THE NATION
AL

OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION/COMMERCE, HAS A NEED TO
CONDUCT SCIENTIFIC TESTS OF THEIR GEOSTATIONARY OPERATIONAL
ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITE (GOES) SYSTEM AT A SITE NEAR AUCKLAND,
NEW ZEALAND.

2. THE GOES SYTEM WILL BE USED BY THE U.S. IN SUPPORT OF AN
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM WHICH WILL ALSO INCLUDE SATELLITES
PROVIDED BY JAPAN, A EUROPEAN CONSORTIUM, EUROPEAN SATELLITE
RESEARCH ORGANIZATION (ESRO), AND THE USSR. THE GOAL OF THE
PROGRAM IS TO HAVE FIVE ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITES LOCATED ON
THE EQUATOR AND SPACED SO AS TO GIVE FULL EARTH COVERAGE AROUND
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THE WORLD. THESE SATELLITES, OF WHICH THE U.S. HAS TWO PRESENTLY
IN ORBIT LOCATED AT 115 DEGREES W LONG., AND 75 DEGREES
W LONG., WILL SUPPLY "REAL-TIME" CLOUD PICTURES,
WEATHER FACSIMILE TRANSMISSIONS, AND A DATA COLLECTION SYSTEM

SERVICE FOR ASSIMILATION OF METEOROLOGICAL, OCEANOGRAPHIC,
AND OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DATA.

3. AS PART OF THE GOES DATA COLLECTION SYSTEM (DCS), NESS IS INVOLVED IN AN ANTENNA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM TO DESIGN ANTENNAS FOR INSTALLATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL BUOYS LOCATED IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC AREA. THEY WOULD SEND METEOROLOGICAL AND OCEANOGRAPHIC DATA BACK FROM THE BUOYS TO THE SPACECRAFT (S/C). TO DEVELOP THE ANTENNAS, NESS MUST FIND A SITE IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE AND PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIONS SHOW THAT AUCKLAND IS SUITABLE. NESS PLANS TO CONDUCT THE FOLLOWING TESTS:

- A) MEASURE AND RECORD RECEIVED SIGNAL LEVEL FROM S/C AT LOW ELEVATION ANGLES OVER WATER.
- B) DETERMINE MAXIMUM CAPABILITY OF COMMUNICATIONS LINK (LINK MARGIN).
- C) DETERMINE DATA CAPACITY OF LINK (BIT ERROR RATE).
- D) DETERMINE MAXIMUM PHASE PERTURBATIONS OF RECEIVED SIGNAL.

THIS INFORMATION AND DATA WOULD BE OF INTEREST TO THE NZ SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY IN THAT IT WOULD DEMONSTRATE THE CAPABILITY OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL DATA SENSOR PLATFORM MAINTAINING A DATA LINK THROUGH THE GOES SYSTEM.

4. IF POSSIBLE, THE EXPERIMENTAL TEST SITE SHOULD MEET THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

- A) UNOBSTRUCTED VIEW TOWARDS 78 DEGREES EAST FROM TRUE NORTH (78 DEGREES AZIMUTH) WITH AN OCEAN HORIZON.
- B) 20-FOOT WIDE PIER OUT OVER WATER, HAVING A MINIMUM DEPTH OF 20 FEET, WITH NO REEF OR SHOAL BETWEEN IT AND THE HORIZON.
- C) 120 VAC, 60 HZ, POWER AVAILABLE NEARBY.

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- D) LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE CAPABILITY TO THE U.S.
 - E) METEOROLOGICAL RADIOSONDE SUPPORT AVAILABLE GIVING AIR PRESSURE, AIR TEMPERATURE, AND HUMIDITY PROFILES ON DAILY BASIS WITHIN A FEW KILOMETERS FROM TEST SITE. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT SUCH A METEOROLOGICAL FACILITY IS OPERATING IN THE AREA.
5. THE FOLLOWING SUPPORT FROM THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT OR INTERESTED ORGANIZATIONS WOULD BE EXTREMELY BENEFICIAL:
- A) AID IN COORDINATION OF BRINGING NESS TEST EQUIPMENT INTO THE COUNTRY THROUGH NEW ZEALAND CUSTOMS. THE EQUIPMENT WOULD BE AIR FREIGHTED, AND WOULD CONSIST OF APPROXIMATELY 1,000 LBS.

B) AID IN PLACEMENT AND RECEIPT OF ONE OR TWO TELEGRAMS DAILY TO THE UNITED STATES. THESE WILL BE SHORT MESSAGES CONSISTING AT THE MOST OF TEN LINES.

C) AVAILABILITY OF TELEPHONE FOR CALLS TO AND FROM THE UNITED STATES AT THE TEST SITE OR IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY.

D) AID IN MAKING HOTEL RESERVATIONS AT TEST SITE. COST OF SERVICES UNDER (B) AND (C) ABOVE TO BE BORNE BY NOAA.

6. IT IS DESIRABLE TO RUN THESE TESTS DURING THE PERIOD STARTING JUNE 23, 1975 AND ENDING JULY 2, 1975. OUR EXPERIMENTAL STAFF COULD CONSIST OF THREE ENGINEERS, ALL AMERICAN CITIZENS, TWO BEING FROM NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY, AND ONE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE. THEY WOULD ARRIVE AT AUCKLAND ON JUNE 22, 1975.

7. ALL DATA AND RESULTS OF EXPERIMENT WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO NZ.

8. REQUEST YOU OBTAIN GNZ APPROVAL FOR THIS PROJECT AND CONTACT APPROPRIATE SPACE OFFICIALS IN NEW ZEALAND CONCERNING AVAILABILITY OF APPROPRIATE SITES AND FACILITIES.

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